(ii) State Government has deployed protection staff in the area visited by the turtles to ensure that they are not disturbed.

(iii) The Coast Guard has been maintaining a special vigil in the area to ensure that no poaching of sea turtles takes place.

(iv) Fishing within 5 Kms. of the sea-shore and shallow waters has been restricted by the State Government during the period of mass nesting of the sea turtles.

(v) Central assistance has been made available to the State Government of Orissa for the development of the Bhitarkonika Sanctuary and for the captive breeding of sea turtles.

Exploration of Atomic Minerals in Sea-bed in Orissa

3. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any atomic minerals have been found in sea-bed in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether any exploration have been conducted; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Detailed investigations were carried out over an area of 69 sq. kms. during 1988-89, and 1062 sq. kms. during January, 1990 off Gopalpur Coast, Orissa, in collaboration with Marine Geology Wing of the Geological survey of India, in near-shore areas. It has been found that the near-shore sandy sediments, at depths of 11 m to 22.5 m isobaths between Gopalpur and Chattarpur, Orissa, contain heavy minerals like Ilmenite, Sillimanite Carnet, Zircon, Rutile, Monazite, Epidote etc. A few sand bodies have been identified with total heavy mineral content varying from 3.5—14 per cet by weight as indicated by the analysis of the samples.

Education of women in rural and Adivasi areas

4. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any new plan for the education of women in the rural and adivasi areas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the details of directives issued to State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education lays special emphasis on removal of disparities in acc ess to educational opportunities suffered by women. Some of the recent strategies initiated to promote women's education throughout the country, with emphasis on women in rural and tribal areas, include the following:—

(i) *Mahila Samakhya*: The basic thrust of this programme is to create a mechanism whereby women are given an oppor-